

CC96-45

RECEIVED

Urbana High School
3471 Campus Drive
Hampsville, Maryland 21754
301-874-6191
FAX: 301-874-6189

MAY 1 2 15 PM '97

JAMES QUELLO

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 24, 1997

James Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

We are the Technology Committee from Urbana High School in Frederick County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The schools in our county have very limited access to the Internet usually through a single phone line. We will never be able to afford more access for all schools unless discounts are provided. School funding is stagnant, while our technology needs are growing.

We are fortunate at our school to have access to a 56kb line. This is a great improvement over one line, however it is slow with the number of users we have. We have over 400 computers in our school which we would like to connect to the Internet. Without the discounts we will never be able to reach our goal. Our teachers and students realize the value of the Internet and are anxious to use it for projects. It opens up many new avenues of information that were not traditionally available to students.

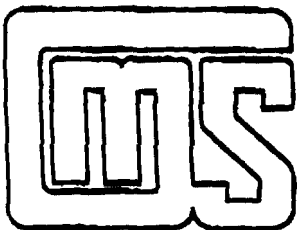
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Urbana High School Technology Committee

Sandra L. Doggett
George E. Keener
Deborah V. High
Bryan R. R...



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Post Office Box 30035
Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0035
Telephone (704) 379-7141

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

May 1, 1997

Susan Burgess, Chairperson
Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
George R. Dunlap
Lindalyn Kakadellis
John W. Lesater
Pamela R. Manges
Samuel L. Reid
John A. Tate III
Louise S. Woods

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

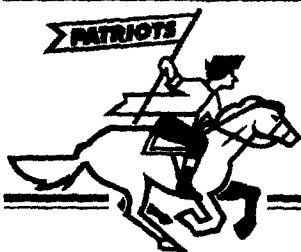
The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

Susan Burgess



Washington Colony School District

130 East Lincoln Avenue • Fresno, California 93706
209/ 233-0706 • FAX 209/ 233-9583

April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 30 2 23 PM '97

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Washington Colony Elementary School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

1530 CONCORDIA WEST • IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92612-3299
714-854-8002

April 29, 1997

Commissioner James E. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Quello,

Recently Concordia University became aware of a proposal that would significantly increase Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) for multi-line customers. As an administrator of a private, Liberal Arts university, I must inform you that our administration is very much opposed to the proposed increases. During an era in which colleges and universities are being challenged to stop increasing tuition, the proposed SLC increase would significantly impact an already tight budget.

Although Concordia University is certainly empathic to the need to provide telecommunications for public K-12 schools, we request that the revenue for that project be generated in a different venue.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

Dr. Mary Hall

Dr. Mary Hall
Vice President
Dean of University Services

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
Commissioner James E. Quello		From	Dr. Mary Hall
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	



GLENDORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

500 North Loraine Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741 • (818) 963-1611 • FAX (818) 335-2196

April 22, 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW. Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 1 1997

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Lundstrom, President
Everett Hughes, Vice President
Doris Blum, Clerk
Robert Neuenschwander, Member
Peggy Harding, Member

Patrick Bushman, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Glendora Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

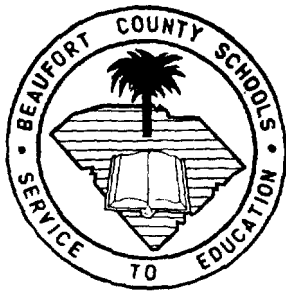
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Doris Blum
Board Member

/sg

APR 23 2 23 PM '97



BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Post Office Drawer 309
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-0309
(803) 525-4200
FAX (803) 525-4324

CC96-45

RECEIVED

APR 23 2 25 PM '97

JAMES QUELLO

RECEIVED

Chairman
LAURA BUSH

Vice Chairman
CHARLES KRESCH

Secretary
DALE FRIEDMAN

Board Members
Earl Campbell
Rick Caporale
Joseph Floyd
York L. Glover
Reuben Greene
Susan Jancourt
Ronald Speaks
Bonnie Smith

Superintendent
HERMAN K. GAITHER

April 24, 1997

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

RE: The Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication toward ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries, provides substantial discounts for even the poorest schools allowing them the opportunity to connect to the Internet, more importantly the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I therefore urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Laura Bush, Chairman
Beaufort County Board Of Education

LB/ljw

1830 Nogales Street
P.O. Box 8490
Rowland Heights
CA 91748

(818) 965-2541
(Fax) 854-8302

Office of the Superintendent

April 22, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Honorable Quello:

On behalf of the Rowland Unified School District, in Los Angeles County, California, I urge you to support the proposed "e-rate" for our schools.

Affordable access to the Information Superhighway is one important educational tool needed to prepare California students for the job market of the next century.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will bring technology/telecommunication access into the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

Rowland Unified is committed to bringing the world into our classrooms and extending student learning experiences beyond the confines of the school. Deep discounts for telecommunication services will enable this effort to move forward in 1997 and future years.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools, and thank you for your support of our future citizens.

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Leon, Ed.D.

RJL:ac

c: Board of Education



Governing Board

Jerre Davenport
Peter H. Lamphere
Mary Jo Maxwell
Paul E. Walters
Melody Yu

Dr. Ronald J. Leon,
Superintendent

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

APR 29 2 25 PM '97
JAMES QUAY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554



Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-4911

28 April 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

MAILED
APR 29 1997

APR 29 1997

APR 29 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Quello:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly call a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the peoples representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virgil W. Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Virgil W. Palmer
Manager, Computing and Telecommunications
Infrastructure Services



California Lottery
Headquarters
600 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7818

CC 96-48

RECEIVED
APR 23 11 15 AM '97
JAN 27 1997

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERC, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on the California State Lottery (CSL) as well as other American businesses, I am told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you NOT to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax of \$40,500 per month (\$486,000 per year) on the CSL, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. It should be noted that this amount of rate change forced upon the CSL really equates to a \$486,000 revenue shortfall for California education; education is the single recipient of all unexpended CSL administrative funds.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

William A. Brewer, Director
Information Management & Services Division
California State Lottery

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Jenifer Elem.
WE are faculty and staff from *Charles County* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie Carter
Kluby S. Sutz
Connie Simpson
Senora Bone
Jeannie Henderson
Quaria Censler

Brian M.
Julie Jobe
Melissa H. Knapp
Michael J. Williams
George S.

April 22, 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

WE are faculty and staff from *Wm. B. Wade Elem.* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cunniff
Rebecca Golding
Agnie Lepford
Stephanie Silverman
Jennifer Collins
Karen Dempsey
Jenn. F. T. T. T.
Original R. McGraw

Bridget W. Fisher
Catherine Sokal
Kemi Taylor
Lathema W. Taylor
William B. Fisher
Rolonda D. Fields
James S. Richard
Lorie Cales

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

WE are faculty and staff from *Wm. B. Wade Elem.* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cuniff
Maureen Golding
Stephanie Silberman
Cynthia Legaspos
Jennifer Collins
Donna Griffin
Vincent R. McGraw
Jenn. F. T. Telle
Arken Sina

Deborah J. Fahn
Catherine Sokal
Kim Taylor
Patricia W. Wray
William D. Fisher
Rolando B. Sulez
James S. Richard
Joie Cales

CC96-45

FORT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**VIRGINIA J. DIXON, PRINCIPAL****814 PEGGY DRIVE
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030
912/825-2413****MRS. MOODY FREEMAN
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR****MRS. BETTY BIRNEY
MRS. PAMELA CHAMBERS
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

MAY 1 1997

April 25, 1997

Dear FCC Commissioner and Chairman,

Thank you for giving Fort Valley Middle School the opportunity to be included on reduced prices for Internet Access. We are very interested in connecting classrooms as well as the Media center to the Internet. Anything you can do to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries would be greatly appreciated.

The Internet has the power to energize students and increase their love of learning, while helping teachers and students reach educational goals faster and more efficiently. Technology is changing education and exciting teachers and students in ways never imagined.

Thank you for helping with funding of connecting schools with the Internet. Our partnership can turn students on to learning.

Respectfully,

*Linda Connell***Linda Connell
Media Specialist**

LC/ap

009648

University of Cincinnati
Medical Center



RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Medical Center Academic Information
Technology and Libraries

Office of the Director
University of Cincinnati
PO Box 670574
Cincinnati OH 45267-0574

231 Bethesda Avenue
Phone (513) 558-5656
Fax (513) 558-2682

MAY 23 12 07 PM '97

April 28, 1997

The Honorable James H. Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am a member of the FCC Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care. I am also representative of the Medical Library Association and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. In these capacities, I urge you to support a "universal service" policy that provides rural access and costs equal to the same services provided in urban areas. This means that telecommunication rates should be "distance insensitive" and that access to an Internet service provider should be a local or toll-free call. To do otherwise would, in my opinion, both undermine the intent of Congress and take the teeth out of the "universal service" provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

J. Roger Guard
Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

801 SEQUOIA PACIFIC BOULEVARD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-0282
(916) 657-8903



April 28, 1997

MAY 1 1997

VIA FACSIMILE

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Re. Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

We have recently been informed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering a proposal that would increase the Subscriber Line Charge for business lines, and impose a new charge, a Federal Equitable Recovery Charge or FERC, of approximately \$4.50 per month per line on multi-line business customers to support extending telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities. While the FCC is considering imposing these new charges on business (as well as in our case government entities), the Commission has not and is not considering the long overdue action of moving the cost of local access services closer to true cost.

While we support, in principle, the initiative to bring telecommunications facilities to schools and libraries for increased access, we are concerned that the FCC is not balancing the cost of this initiative with: 1) the current economic position of the incumbent Local Exchange Carriers which in most instances will be the beneficiary of both use of this subsidy funding to install these services, and will also receive the income from the use of these services; 2) a number of states, including California, either have enacted or are in the process of establishing programs to support telecommunications access for schools, libraries, etc., and 3) there is no evidence that ubiquitous competitive entry into the local exchange is forthcoming, and the proposed FERC does nothing to drive rates closer to true cost, and only entrench the philosophy of socialized rate making requiring business customers to subsidize other classes of service.

I urge you not adopt the proposed FERC or any other initiative which increases already uneconomic rates without a true rate reform proceeding by the FCC with the objective of driving rates closer to actual cost.

Sincerely,

ALLAN G. TOLMAN, Chief
Telephone and Network Services

AGT:SS:pr/hundttx.doc

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

the Information
Technology andTelecommunications
Association

April 28, 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

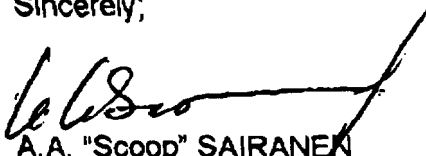
Dear Commissioner Quello:

TCA, the Information Technology and Telecommunications Association has recently been informed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering a proposal that would increase the Subscriber Line Charge for business lines, and impose a new charge, a Federal Equitable Recovery Charge or FERC, of approximately \$4.50 per month per line on multi-line business customers to support extending telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. While the FCC is considering imposing these new charges on business, (which for the 475 member companies of TCA would conservatively amount to over \$50 million in additional charges) the Commission has not and is not considering the long overdue action of moving the cost of local access services closer to true cost.

While we support, in principle, the initiative to bring telecommunications facilities to schools and libraries for increased access, we are concerned that the FCC is not balancing the cost of this initiative with: 1) the current economic position of the incumbent Local Exchange Carriers which in most instances will be the beneficiary of both use of this subsidy funding to install these services, and will also receive the income from the use of these services; 2) a number of states either have enacted or are in the process of establishing programs to support telecommunications access for schools, libraries, etc., and 3) there is no evidence that ubiquitous competitive entry into the local exchange is forthcoming, and the proposed FERC does nothing to drive rates closer to true cost, and only entrench the philosophy of socialized rate making requiring business customers to subsidize other classes of service.

We urge you not adopt the proposed FERC or any other initiative which increases already uneconomic rates without a true rate reform proceeding by the FCC with the objective of driving rates closer to actual cost.

Sincerely;


A.A. "Scoop" SAIRANEN
President - Elect

74 New Montgomery
Suite 230
San Francisco, CA
94105-3411

415/777-4647
415/777-0290 fax

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

White Marsh Elementary School
 29090 Thompson Corner School
 Mechanicsville, MD 20659
 April 21, 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street NW
 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

We are the faculty and staff from White Marsh Elementary School in St. Mary's County, Maryland. **We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.**

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. This plan will bring services directly to our classrooms where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

With these discounts, we could provide our students with distance learning opportunities. The students would be able to study and research using the technology found in the workplace. As a rural school, the E-rate discounts would enable students to realize growth currently unavailable due to monetary constraints.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunication services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan giving universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

R. Brian Rose
 Peggy Munoz
 Madeline E. Allbrook
 Kathleen Wells
 Pamela M. Coplin
 Gail Elliott
 John B. Rosemont
 G. A. Pott
 Jennife Graftman

Cathie G. May
 Joanne Woodall
 Mary Luskey
 Diane Hurley
 Margaret Ekhaus
 Jane Roache
 Mary Clair Johnson
 Peggy Hamilton
 Kathy Hallard
 Patricia Davis
 Janet R. Sanders
 Linda Gordon
 Linda M. Bayers
 Mary L. King
 June Harris
 Barbara Haldeman
 Cynthia Stahr

CC96-45

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 28, 1997

Commissioner James E. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new cost on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American business, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structure". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than 3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Vernell V. Fultz
Telecommunications Administrator
The Salk Institute

Cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong

Commissioner Susan Ness

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-4911

28 April 1997

CC96-45
RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

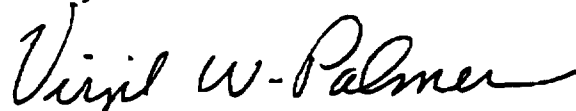
Dear Commissioner Quello:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly call a FERO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the peoples representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Virgil W. Palmer
Manager, Computing and Telecommunications
Infrastructure Services

CC9648



3Com Corporation (408) 764-5000
5400 Bayfront Plaza, P O Box 58145 345546 Telex
Santa Clara, CA 95052-8145

Sandy Falk
Commissioner Quello
Federal Communications Commissioner
1919 M Street
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Ms. Falk,

The Senate's Snowe-Rockefeller Amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 promises to remedy the inequity between have and have-not schools gaining access to the Internet. Resolving this kind of inconsistency is critical if we're going to solve the problem of getting all US classrooms hooked up by the year 2000. At 3Com, the world's second largest networking company, we feel it is important that you know how important we view this "project headstart" for have-not urban schools.

While the Snowe-Rockefeller amendment isn't perfect, it provides for much broader and systematic introduction of networking into our schools, which will result in students with sharper critical thinking skills and the tool-belts necessary for tackling jobs in the 21st century.

David Katz, 3Com's Worldwide Education manager and I will be in Washington D.C. on May 1-2, and would like to meet very briefly with Commissioner Quello or his staff to discuss this important subject.

Sincerely,

David J. Abramson
Corporate Public Affairs Manager

CC96-45 P. 02

Arizona Health Sciences Library



1501 N. Campbell Ave.
PO Box 245079
Tucson, Arizona 85724-5079
(520) 626-6241
FAX (520) 626-2922

April 28, 1997

The Honorable James H. Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am president-elect of the Medical Library Association and an Associate Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Project. In these capacities, I urge you to support a "universal service" policy that provides rural access and costs equal to the same services provided in urban areas. This means that telecommunication rates should be "distance insensitive" and that access to an Internet service provider should be a local or toll-free call. To do otherwise would, in my opinion, both undermine the intent of Congress and take the teeth out of the "universal service" provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Telemedicine has the potential to improve substantially the delivery of health care in underserved rural areas. Telecommunications services, including telemedicine, should be available in rural areas at rates comparable to those in urban areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rachael K. Anderson".

Rachael K. Anderson
Director

RKA/smk



CC 96-45

Via Facsimile

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

We at CareAmerica Health Plans are very concerned about your proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support new telecommunications capabilities at schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. As a health plan with more than 263,000 group and Medicare members, we utilize approximately 800 phone lines at our company, 20 % of which are toll-free and provide free and direct access to our members should they need assistance with any aspect of their coverage or medical services. A fee of \$4.50 per line per month would add a charge of more than \$43,000 a year to our company's telephone costs, of which more than \$10,000 would be added to our current costs of providing toll-free service to these customers.

I urge you not to adopt the Subscriber Line Charge increase, which would impose an expensive, additional tax on all businesses and would impact many organizations' abilities to provide toll-free customer service and access. We believe that taxes to support telecommunications for schools, libraries, rural healthcare providers or others should be supported by all sectors, not just businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges. All telecommunications consumers -- businesses as well as residential -- deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways that do not penalize businesses which already are paying excessive rates to meet their telecommunications needs.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Mason
Director, Telecommunications Services
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President
Bob Steiger, CIO

RR 1 Box 285
Houtzdale PA 16651
April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Moshannon Valley School District, and I am concerned that students from rural districts like ours will be left behind on the Information Superhighway. I understand that you have been working toward the goal of ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to this Information Superhighway. I laud your efforts and ask for your continued support.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

We are a poor district that is large in area and located a distance from most telecommunication nodes. This means that our costs are greater than areas located close to a node. It also means our students are more isolated both geographically and culturally. Having access to the Internet will give our students an opportunity to interact on a global basis. If rates are low enough, it will also give us the opportunity to link the school with homes in the area giving parents access to up-to-date schedules, homework information and easy communication with teachers.

I urge you to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

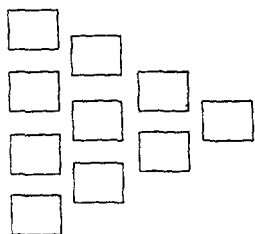

Stephen M. Belin

APR 23 1997

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SECRETARY

RECEIVED

CC 96-48



GODWIN HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School • 50 - 35th Street, S.W., Wyoming, Michigan 49548 • (616) 245-0411

Fax: (616) 245-0200

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Ness:

I am the principal of Godwin Heights High School in Wyoming, Michigan and I would like to thank you for your help in making sure that the students will have access to the Information Super Highway. Your work in keeping this affordable to schools is appreciated.

It is essential that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee quality, affordable service for all students as they prepare for tomorrow's work force. The \$2.25 billion a year will help all of our schools in their initiatives but rest assured the vital link in the program is the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts.

Our district wide plan includes:

- *The installation of WAN and LAN to bring technology to the classroom where learning takes place.
- *To bring the Internet to each classroom in the district. We believe this to become incredibly important resource for student learning.
- *To install a distance learning classroom.

The district fully supports the use of technology, but needs discounts in services to make its plan affordable. We need the discounts for telecommunications services this year. I ask the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Michael Matlosz

Michael Matlosz
Principal

15. 1. 1997 12 344

15. 1. 1997
15. 1. 1997
15. 1. 1997



Burlingame School District

2303 Trousdale Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
Telephone [415] 259-3800
Fax [415] 259-3820

April 23, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 832
Washington, C.D. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Board of Trustees

Mrs. Jean Fiske
Mr. Steven Glick
Mrs. Laurie Hoffman
Mrs. Mary Peros
Mrs. Lisa Rosenthal

MR. ROBERT E. BEUTHEL
SUPERINTENDENT

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Burlingame School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Hoffman

M.1 97.8

16.11.97 17:07

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SCHOOL SERVICES
16.11.97